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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502; A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

1. Mr. MOTSYK (Ukraine) said that the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs continued to pose a social, economic and political threat in virtually all countries. Those activities also frustrated the fight against terrorism, corruption and AIDS. Moreover, political instability and the transition to a market economy in some States, coupled with the fact that drug trafficking was now better organized, were helping to facilitate the establishment of new markets and new distribution routes. Active efforts to promote drug control were therefore essential at all levels. In that connection, his delegation was highly appreciative of the work carried out by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). It also endorsed the UNDCP approach, which gave equal consideration to reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs and fighting drug trafficking. A still more comprehensive global approach could be achieved if appropriate preventive measures were also applied.

2. His delegation noted with satisfaction that UNDCP activities had been extended to encompass new regions and newly-independent States, notably in Eastern Europe, including States established on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Until recently, and with very few exceptions, the only illicit drugs in Ukraine were of local origin, a fact which was probably explained by the then strict border regime and the non-convertibility of the currency. However, now that Ukraine was standardizing its border legislation and broadening its international links, narcotic drugs regularly found their way into the country from abroad, apparently confirming the view that the Eastern European region was a new target for traffickers. Accordingly, he believed that UNDCP activities in that region should be further strengthened.

3. His delegation fully supported UNDCP efforts to secure the accession - and subsequent adherence - by all States to international treaties on drug control. Ukraine had ratified the three major international conventions, which now constituted part of its national legislation in accordance with a law passed in 1991. He also attached great importance to strengthening regional and subregional cooperation among States to combat drug trafficking; such cooperation among the States of Eastern and Western Europe should be a key issue for discussion when the heads of drug enforcement agencies met in Vienna in 1993. Cooperation among States to combat criminality, which included the illegal drug trade, had been stressed at the meeting of internal ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States, Estonia and Latvia, held in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev in October 1992. At the meeting, Ukraine had concluded a number of bilateral agreements on cooperation in drug control and illicit drug trafficking.

(Mr. Motsyk, Ukraine)

4. In conclusion, he said that his delegation attached special significance to the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, which provided an excellent opportunity to broaden awareness and active participation in the fight against drugs at international, national and regional levels. Meanwhile, the strict implementation and observance of the relevant international conventions was of the utmost importance.

5. Mr. DEKANY (Hungary) said that a coordinated overall strategy to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking needed to give due regard to the highly complex nature of the drug problem, including the motivations of drug users and the political and socio-economic circumstances underlying illicit production and trafficking.

6. The International Drug Control Programme, under skilful leadership, had thus far been successful in fulfilling its objectives. Particularly noteworthy were its efforts to use effectively the resources of various United Nations agencies while ensuring a coordinated and highly professional approach to project implementation. His country believed that programmes in the field of drug control should be developed as the outcome of constructive dialogue between donor and recipient countries. In addition, programme planners should allocate resources more equitably between programmes designed to reduce demand and those aimed at preventing drug production and trafficking and should take account of the implementation of supply and demand. The International Drug Control Programme had a number of important priorities: strengthening its relationship with United Nations and other agencies; broadening the donor base; providing legal assistance for implementation of the drug conventions; and strengthening control over drug production and trafficking. To that list should be added several other priorities, over the medium and long term: prevention; establishing an ongoing dialogue between continents; and developing local, regional and national strategies.

7. Policy planning in the drug control field depended on the availability of consistent and reliable information. The international community must accordingly ensure that the International Drug Control Programme was in a position to provide data on trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking world wide and, in that connection, the further development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System was most welcome.

8. Reliable data was particularly important for the eastern European region, where drastic social changes had given rise to a new wave of drug production and illicit trafficking. Hungary wished to thank the International Drug Control Programme, other international agencies and donor countries for their assistance, within the framework of the Balkan route programme, in strengthening the region's law enforcement services. At the same time, it agreed with the International Narcotics Control Board that attention should also be paid to strengthening efforts for the prevention of drug abuse and for the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug abusers. Certain countries, among them the central European countries, had only limited

(Mr. Dekany, Hungary)

knowledge in the drug field, particularly in the areas of education, prevention and treatment, and would accordingly need a greater share of Programme resources for applied research and evaluation.

9. Despite a rise in drug confiscations in 1992, the Balkans continued to be a major route for illicit drug traffic to Europe. Drug traffickers were reacting to political changes in the region: the conflict in the former Yugoslavia had shifted traditional trafficking patterns to Hungary, making it an important part of the transit route. His country had not, contrary to certain beliefs, been the site of illicit drug storehouses or clandestine laboratories and it still did not represent a significant marketplace for hard drugs. Hungary's drug law enforcement authorities, supported by the International Drug Control Programme, were determined to prevent any significant increase in drug distribution and consumption rates.

10. His country had taken a number of steps in the fight against narcotic drugs. It had participated in the Chemical Action Task Force, subsequently incorporating the Task Force's recommendations in its national legislation. It had established a reporting system on the production, exportation and importation of the 10 new targeted precursor substances. It was currently preparing to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and to elaborate legal regulations on money-laundering. The Hungarian Parliament would be considering modification of the country's penal code, including provisions dealing with drug dealers and drug abusers. Hungary was also developing a national drug abuse prevention strategy which would include anti-drug education for schoolchildren, increased responsibility at the local level, and the development of treatment and rehabilitation services.

11. Mr. ANSARI (Pakistan) said that his delegation was deeply concerned by the dramatic escalation of drug abuse in recent years, which had led to an upsurge in crime, violence and corruption and the draining of resources which might otherwise be used for socio-economic development. No nation was immune to those problems; hence they could only be resolved through a coordinated international effort. In that connection, he hoped that the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, a mechanism designed to coordinate all United Nations system activities in that field, would be an effective means of implementing the Global Programme of Action.

12. A successful drug-control strategy must recognize that the production, supply and consumption of narcotic drugs were interconnected and had to be addressed as a single problem. In recent years, the distinction between producer and consumer States had become increasingly blurred: traditional producer and transit States were faced with increasing demand for drugs and traditional consumer States were getting involved in production, in particular of psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. His Government agreed that reduction of demand was of primary importance and in that connection welcomed the 1990 London Declaration on Demand Reduction.

(Mr. Ansari, Pakistan)

13. Measures to curtail production and trafficking would be effective only if taken in conjunction with actions to provide alternative economic opportunities for drug producers. However, it was often difficult to find cash-crop substitutes which were as financially attractive as drug crops. The international community had to encourage illicit drug producers to substitute other crops by offering them fair prices for their products and better access to world markets. In particular, it was necessary to provide economic assistance to farmers in poppy-growing areas and to establish industry in those areas as an alternative source of employment and income.

14. Law enforcement was another vital aspect of drug control. Drug law enforcement agencies should be provided with the equipment necessary to carry out their tasks and the financial assistance necessary to meet operational costs and the costs of training personnel.

15. His Government endorsed the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and welcomed its balanced and comprehensive strategy. It wished, however, to emphasize that all actions of the Programme should be guided strictly by the principles and norms of international law, in particular those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

16. Rather than expend its energy on establishing new structures, the international community should base its efforts on the more than adequate array of existing mechanisms, guidelines and instruments in the drug control field.

17. In Pakistan, the trafficking in and demand for illicit drugs was assuming alarming proportions and giving rise to serious socio-economic and financial problems. In response, his Government had strengthened its administrative structures and enforcement mechanisms and had taken a number of measures, including the establishment of an anti-narcotics task force for the investigation and prosecution of major illicit drug traffickers; the enactment of legislation dealing with traffickers and the confiscation of drug-related earnings; as well as intensification of narcotics interdiction measures. Treatment and rehabilitation of addicts was provided at Government hospitals, by some private medical practitioners, and in detoxification centres. The Government had already placed acetic anhydride on a restricted list for import and was currently considering placing on that list all substances mentioned in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which it was a signatory. It was currently engaged in an educational campaign on the harmful consequences of drug abuse and planned to train resource personnel and community workers in drug abuse prevention.

18. Pakistan was an active participant in efforts of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to combat drug trafficking in the region and was a party to the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs. His country had also entered into bilateral agreements with Iran and India to exchange information on cross-boundary drug trafficking.

19. Mr. LUNA (Peru) said that the current phase of the international war on drugs was marked by the considerable success of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, under the able leadership of its Executive Director, in implementing and coordinating United Nations drug control activities. Among its notable achievements were the establishment of a data bank on the movement of substances included in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and of other substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and an agreement concluded with the World Bank in which it pledged to take due account in planning its structural adjustment and investment operations of the narcotic drug problem in those countries most affected. The General Assembly should reinforce those efforts by adopting, at its forty-seventh session, a resolution granting the International Drug Control Programme definitive status as the body integrating existing United Nations drug control structures.

20. The current global picture called for increased international cooperation in the war against drugs. While advances in that combat had been made at the local and regional levels, international cooperation continued to lag behind. The major objectives of the Global Programme of Action had still to be reached and the international community appeared to be going through a phase of relative laxity with regard to drug control. States must revitalize their efforts. Of particular importance were policies for alternative rural development, which should be supported by those United Nations agencies with the most ample financial resources.

21. It was vital to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the drug problem, using the vast energies liberated by the end of the cold war. Efforts to promote international peace and security were viable only if accompanied by parallel efforts in the economic and social fields, including the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with their far-reaching consequences. It must also be recognized that a durable solution to the drug trafficking problem was possible only through concerted international action, which took into account respect for international sovereignty. For those reasons, his delegation supported the proposal by Mexico to convene a resumed forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in the spring of 1993, to evaluate international cooperation in the fight against drugs.

22. Peru had participated actively in efforts to combat drugs. It had undertaken negotiations with other interested Governments to coordinate drug control efforts. It had ratified in 1992 the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and had enacted specific legislation to implement the provisions relating to control of precursor substances in accordance with article 12 of the Convention. In August 1992, it had, in conjunction with five other Latin American countries, agreed to take additional measures to reduce drug trafficking by means of improved monitoring of planes and landing strips; to strengthen cooperation between customs services and commercial airlines; and to coordinate the prevention of drug use through programmes for prevention, and treatment and

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

rehabilitation. It had recently signed individual agreements with the United Kingdom on judicial cooperation and prevention of money-laundering.

23. The events of the past two years, including the collapse of an enormous political system, the current restructuring of the United Nations and the appointment of a new Secretary-General, might give the mistaken impression that the international community had lost interest in the problem of narcotic drugs. However, the intensity of that problem, the alarming rate at which it was growing, and its impact on all other aspects of society made it a more important priority than ever before.

24. Mr. STREJCZEK (Poland) said that no State was immune from the widespread threat of drugs and their destructive consequences to society. With drug abuse on the increase, the future outlook for producing, consuming and transit countries alike remained grim. Given the global nature of the problem, the role of the United Nations in combating illicit drugs and psychotropic substances was clearly instrumental. The international community had recognized the threat early on by adopting three United Nations conventions on the subject, and had been further empowered in the struggle against drugs by the establishment of UNDCP. The coordination of normative functions and operational activities within a single secretariat had been an important step.

25. During the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Poland had expressed full confidence in the activities of UNDCP. It believed that its current difficulties would shortly be overcome and supported the autonomy of the Executive Director in matters of budgeting and personnel management. With regard to UNDCP priorities, his delegation held the opinion that it was equally important to reduce both the supply and the demand of narcotic drugs. It also shared the view that all drug control conventions should quickly be ratified by as many States as possible. As follow-up to its own ratification in 1989 of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Poland was making the necessary adjustments to its legal system.

26. Poland supported the programmes on law enforcement training to be provided with UNDCP assistance, particularly the proposed laboratory project for countries on the so-called Balkan route. Drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation should be given similar attention. UNDCP should provide expertise and inspiration for international action and conduct operational activities in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and international organizations. His delegation therefore welcomed the close cooperative arrangements between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UNDCP should also essentially provide the former with a unified annual estimate of the world-wide situation concerning illicit drugs. In addition, the interesting concepts contained in document A/47/471 concerning dialogue with the World Bank and the "debt-for-drugs" swap should be further explored.

(Mr. Strejczek, Poland)

27. While Poland had now stemmed the growth of opiate abuse, the situation was still far from satisfactory: the intravenous use of poppy extracts, for instance, had led to the spread of HIV infection among drug abusers. Recently, some success had been achieved in tackling the problem of limiting poppy cultivation without completely outlawing the local production of poppy seeds. In addition, normal poppy plants were being replaced by a low-morphine variety which was of no use for drug purposes. His country would be pleased to share its experience in that area with others. A further problem concerned the abuse mainly by adolescents of volatile solvents, which were not covered by international treaties. His delegation therefore believed that the issue merited attention from UNDCP. The content of the Committee's recent panel discussion on the subject of drug control could also provide an interesting basis for future work by UNDCP.

28. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that the global challenge presented by the widespread drug problem required a firm and united international response, since the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking was an integral part of securing sustainable development and overall stability. His country was prepared to lend its active cooperation to the fight and to enhance the role of UNDCP, which had already proved its viability as an instrument for averting the threat to society posed by drug abuse and drug-related crime. His delegation endorsed the approach of UNDCP because it addressed illegal drug production, traffic and abuse as an interrelated whole and supported its proposed budget. It also expressed its satisfaction with the new role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had adopted important decisions to enhance that role.

29. For Bulgaria, drug abuse did not yet pose a serious medical and social problem, but the ongoing political and economic changes had now made it a target for drug traffickers. In that connection, his delegation wished to stress that the Bulgarian authorities and people were fully aware of the possible consequences, both for the country and world wide. Notwithstanding its serious economic difficulties, his Government was taking all possible measures to avert that danger. He commended UNDCP for its response to the urgent need of countries in transition to strengthen their capacity to do so.

30. He believed that in order to forestall a major problem of drug abuse and drug-related crime resulting from the freer movement of people and goods and the de-monopolization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry, medicinal drug distribution and banking should go hand in hand with stronger administrative control of the manufacture, distribution and licit use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs in compliance with the relevant Conventions. To that end, the Bulgarian authorities had already implemented some measures and were continuing with their thorough review of existing legislation in order to bring it into line with the new requirements. Despite financial constraints, they also continued to allocate more resources to combating transit drug trafficking and had seen a corresponding increase in the number of interceptions.

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

31. In view of the global nature of trafficking, the international community should focus attention on potentially active transit junctions. Since Bulgaria was situated on the so-called Balkan route, it appreciated UNDCP efforts to strengthen operations aimed at barring illicit traffic from that route and the support provided by a number of donor States aimed at increasing its own potential for fighting that traffic. Finally, he stressed the importance of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which Bulgaria had recently ratified.

32. Mr. U Aye LIN (Myanmar) said there was now a growing consensus that no country could isolate itself from the devastating consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking which had been highlighted in the special session of the General Assembly held in 1990 to consider the subject. While welcoming that consensus, Myanmar wished to reiterate that the coordinated international response required to reverse the trend should be carried out in full conformity with the principles of international law, particularly respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. That caveat was stipulated in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and General Assembly resolution 46/1.

33. It was encouraging to note that the United Nations had taken steps to strengthen its capacity to deal with the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. His delegation was confident that UNDCP, which was already doing a commendable job, would be able to respond even more effectively following the administrative integration of the three pre-existing drug control units. That effectiveness, however, would depend primarily on the sustained support of all States. Myanmar, for one, pledged its full support.

34. In order to cope with the dramatic increase in the drug problem in recent years and to counter the danger it presented to social, economic and political stability sustained programmes aimed at progressively reducing and eventually eliminating narcotic crops should be pursued concurrently with serious efforts to reduce illicit demand, which was a prerequisite for ultimate success in controlling the other dimensions of the drug equation.

35. Myanmar was following a multifaceted and multisectoral approach in tackling the drug problem. After enumerating examples of the significant progress achieved as a result of the drug campaign, he said that such endeavours clearly demonstrated his country's continuing contribution to the fight against the drug menace. Senior foreign officials due to visit Myanmar shortly would have the opportunity to witness that effort first hand.

36. The drug abuse problem in Myanmar was linked to the problem of terrorism and could not be viewed in isolation from the need for economic and social development in the border areas. In March 1989, his Government had undertaken development programmes in those areas, placing emphasis on infrastructure

(Mr. U Aye Lin, Myanmar)

building, poverty alleviation and comprehensive economic and social development. Providing an alternative livelihood to the people of the region would give them an incentive to turn away from poppy cultivation. Myanmar had established a new ministry for the development of the border areas and was confident that the programmes being implemented would contribute to the elimination of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

37. It was gratifying to note the cooperation between his Government and a number of United Nations agencies which had provided financial and technical assistance for Myanmar's drug control programmes. His Government had taken decisive steps to promote and support subregional drug-control efforts. For example, it had signed agreements with China and Thailand aimed at eliminating opium poppy cultivation and reducing drag trafficking in the border areas. It anticipated the conclusion of a similar agreement with Laos in the near future. Those agreements were clearly intended to cope with the problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse and to reduce the availability of illicit drugs on international markets. Myanmar was also seeking to make similar arrangements with Bangladesh and India.

38. Mr. KASOULIDES (Cyprus) said that sufficient financial resources had to be found either through reallocation of resources from the regular budget or through voluntary contributions to deal with the drug problem. Accordingly, innovative ideas such as the "drug dimension" of financing by the World Bank and "debt-for-drugs" swap concept should be further elaborated and implemented. There was also a need to step up efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the relevant international instruments to combat drug trafficking.

39. Although Cyprus was situated at the crossroads of large-scale drug trafficking, the country itself did not as yet have a serious drug problem. Drug traffickers used offshore companies and the country's very efficient communication and banking systems. Because of the situation resulting from the 1974 invasion and the continued occupation of a substantial part of the country, his Government was prevented from exercising jurisdiction over 37 per cent of its territory, thus creating ideal conditions for drug trafficking through the ports and airports that were not under the control of the legitimate Government. Most of the drugs consumed in Cyprus were smuggled in from neighbouring countries or the occupied part of Cyprus. Aware of the danger caused by drug abuse and drug trafficking, his Government had taken a number of drug-control measures based on effective international cooperation. Cyprus cooperated closely with the various United Nations drug-control bodies and the Council of Europe in that field. At the local level, Cyprus worked with INTERPOL and other agencies in dealing with international drug trafficking cases. Fifteen liaison officers from various countries were posted in Cyprus on a permanent basis. The police force had recently upgraded its equipment for detecting and arresting drug smugglers and had introduced strict surveillance at ports and airports.

(Mr. Kasoulides, Cyprus)

40. His Government attached the highest importance to a greater exchange of information to combat drug trafficking. The national police force had reinforced its specially trained narcotics squad. Improved equipment and intelligence gathering ensured greater success in the fight against drugs.

41. His country's policy for combating drug abuse was designed to coordinate the activities of government agencies and the private sector through the National Committee for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Trafficking. At the same time, the Government sought to introduce preventive programmes based on education and the dissemination of information in order to increase awareness of the problem at all levels and utilize the strong family structure to prevent drug abuse. The National Information Committee provided advice and drug counselling as part of the preventive strategy and in the area of treatment, the primary objective was to establish a special detoxification centre. Rehabilitation measures were designed to reintegrate drug abusers in the community and provide professional training for former addicts. Lastly, Cyprus, like all small countries, did not have sufficient resources for combating drug trafficking effectively and welcomed outside assistance.

42. Mr. CHOWDURY (Bangladesh) expressed support for the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General on narcotic drugs (A/47/471) and the hope that concerted drug control actions would be sustained at the national, regional and international levels. More information, however, should be provided on the "drug dimension" to be introduced in the lending operations of international financial institutions. That innovation should not increase the already excessive number of conditionalities.

43. The causes of drug abuse, including unemployment and poverty, should be addressed and eliminated through a coordinated approach. While the drug situation in Bangladesh had not reached alarming proportions, the Government was aware of the potential danger and was committed to preventing it from becoming a threat. Bangladesh had signed the international drug control conventions and its legislation strictly prohibited the production, processing, transport, purchase, sale and use of drugs. The Department of Narcotics Control had been established as the focal point for all anti-drug activities in the country; and customs inspectors were being specially trained in drug detection. Mass support for anti-drug measures was being promoted through public relations activities.

44. Emphasis was being placed on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and on reintegrating former addicts into society through special programmes. In cooperation with donors and UNDCP, a five-year master plan had been formulated focusing on law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, and preventive education and information. Bangladesh enthusiastically supported a regional approach to drug trafficking within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Lastly, his Government underscored the need for concerted international action and pledged full cooperation with the international community.

45. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that the developing countries lacked sufficient financial resources for drug law enforcement and treatment programmes and a successful approach to drug problems in all their aspects must therefore be based on international cooperation. There must be a high-level commitment to effective programmes and concerted action based on the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

46. The recent Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta had expressed profound concern at the threat posed to society by drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and had welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the measures taken to enhance the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policy-making body for drug control issues in the United Nations system.

47. Developing countries required additional resources and technical assistance in order to strengthen their criminal justice systems and drug abuse prevention programmes. At the recent Summit and in connection with the legal framework for drug control activities, the non-aligned countries had also reiterated their support for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and for the established principles of international law. Accordingly, all States should ratify the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

48. Reduced demand and a strengthening of the economies of the developing countries were prerequisites for lasting positive results in the drug war. Only concerted international action directed to poverty alleviation, rehabilitation of drug abusers and increased development assistance would be effective.

49. It was encouraging to note that the approach followed by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was consistent with General Assembly resolution 46/103, which emphasized the connection between illicit trafficking and the economic, social and cultural conditions of the countries affected. The non-aligned countries would seek to ensure the implementation of that resolution.

50. A fruitful dialogue between UNDCP and other agencies such as UNDP, FAO and IFAD, and regional development banks and institutions should promote a more effective drug control programme and ensure maximum utilization of resources in view of the limited budgets available to the agencies which bore primary responsibility for drug control. She hoped that the restructuring of the United Nations would make it possible to finalize the Programme's institutional arrangements.

51. Mr. OULIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that vast amounts of human and financial resources, which urgently needed to be channelled into development, were instead spent to curtail the destructive consequences of the illicit production and traffic in narcotic drugs. The dramatic global increase in drug abuse had adversely affected the stability of nations and had often led to cultural regression, social disruption, and economic breakdown.

(Mr. Oulia, Islamic Republic of Iran)

52. Anti-drug strategies could not be effective without a clear insight into the drug abuse phenomenon. The misuse of narcotic drugs was due not only to the profit seeking of drug trafficking networks but also to the relative weakness of governmental authority in the drug control area. At the international level, the United Nations had taken a number of measures to deal with the problem, including the enactment of three conventions on narcotic drugs, the adoption of the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, the proclamation of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, and the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. In order for those measures to be successful, however, all countries had to contribute to the common efforts.

53. The complete eradication of poppy cultivation immediately after the Islamic revolution in Iran and the severe countermeasures adopted by the Government to control the flow of narcotic drugs into the country had led to a significant reduction in the availability of opium and manufactured heroin and to a considerable increase in drug prices in Iran. The implementation of various rehabilitation programmes had also dramatically reduced the number of addicts. Despite those efforts, however, large quantities of raw opium and manufactured heroin and morphine continued to enter Iran in transit to Europe.

54. The destructive impact of the drug transit problem on the people and States situated along transit routes had thrust a tremendous humanitarian responsibility on the Government of Iran to block the entry of drugs into the country. Despite the continuing demands made upon it by the national reconstruction programme, Iran had embarked on a very costly campaign against illicit drug trafficking by enacting severe security countermeasures along its borders.

55. The human and financial resources allocated by Iran in its struggle against drug transit had protected States along transit routes, particularly European countries, against the influx of large amounts of drugs. However, responsibility for controlling the influx of drugs into Iran must be shared by all countries concerned. Notwithstanding the recognition by UNDCP - INCB and ICPO, of Iran's success in curtailing drug transit, Iran's achievements had received no adequate response. As with other social problems, the drug threat would not be removed unless collective interests were able to prevail over political preferences.

56. His delegation welcomed the Joint Programme initiated by UNDCP in the border areas of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, which was designed to strengthen subregional cooperation efforts against illicit drug trafficking in the region. The strengthening of such transboundary cooperation would play a crucial role in combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs from south-west Asia to Europe. His delegation had repeatedly emphasized that the effective implementation of the Joint Programme in South-West Asia was closely linked to

(Mr. Oulia, Islamic Republic of Iran)

the degree of technical and financial assistance provided to Iran's neighbouring countries for the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation and for crop substitution. It therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's report that rural development and crop substitution programmes in Afghanistan and Pakistan had continued to be implemented in the second half of 1991 with assistance from the Programme. The elimination of illicit cultivation in those countries required urgent international action and should be properly addressed in the five-year plan of UNDCP.

57. His Government recognized the vital impact of subregional strategies and bilateral agreements on the elimination of the scourge of narcotic drugs in the region. Such cooperation could be strengthened by the establishment of direct communication between central Governments and local authorities in the border provinces. The Executive Director of the Programme had informed the Committee about the technical consultation organized at Islamabad to assess and eliminate the illicit poppy crop cultivation in south-west Asia. His delegation looked forward to the continuation of such consultations with a view to the eventual elaboration of a set of regulations governing anti-drug activities.

58. In response to the Iranian Government's invitation, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to convene the ministerial-level Conference at the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at Teheran. The Conference had adopted the Tehran Declaration, which contained a number of conclusions concerning such issues as the elimination of illicit cultivation, suppression of trafficking, confiscation, control of precursors and essential chemicals, and reduction of demand. In its Declaration, the Conference proposed to recommend the establishment of a regional bureau of UNDCP to ensure the smooth implementation and effective monitoring of the Programme. The Declaration also commended the efforts of UNDCP to ensure that donor countries played a substantial role in the Programme's activities.

59. Mrs. BANGOURA (Guinea) said that the production, illicit trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs not only jeopardized the economic development and stability of all countries by undermining the youth but intravenous or intramuscular drug consumption, often under unhygienic conditions, had also contributed to the expansion of the AIDS pandemic.

60. In the struggle against the use of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, a pluridisciplinary approach must be adopted, the traditional methods of policing and destroying fields of psychotropic plants having proved ineffective. In many developing countries, peasants risked their lives to grow crops of psychotropic plants because of the rich rewards. The international community must therefore attack the problem at its roots by promoting the cultivation of staple crops in the developing countries and by providing technical and financial assistance and international cooperation for development programmes.

(Mrs. Bangoura, Guinea)

61. Her delegation welcomed the establishment in 1991 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which would help to consolidate the basis for international cooperation in the fight against international drug trafficking. Her delegation supported the Programme's appeal to the international community to vigorously implement joint measures to reduce illicit production and demand, exchange information to help bring about the dismantling of trafficking networks, strengthen the mechanisms for stopping the laundering of drug money, provide large-scale assistance to rural development programmes in order to enable the drug producers to earn a living from licit activities and promote substitute economic activities at remunerative prices.

62. In the area of international legislation, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 had supplemented the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Those legal instruments reflected decisive international efforts aimed at strengthening the international community's war against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Adherence to those Conventions would strengthen the international cooperation that was necessary to reduce and eventually eradicate the illicit production and demand for drugs and inspire rural populations to join in the war on drugs.

63. The Government of Guinea had established a pluridisciplinary commission charged with coordinating activities and proposing measures to combat drug use. The commission planned to use the media to educate the population on the evils of drug abuse and to work for the treatment and social rehabilitation of drug addicts.

64. Since the profits derived from drug trafficking were a key element of the power of drug traffickers, victory in the drug war would require not only political will on the part of States but also bilateral and multilateral technical and financial assistance. Her delegation therefore supported the adoption of measures to control the financial assets of drug traffickers and was in favour of making the laundering of drug money an international crime.

65. It was time for the international community, through UNDCP to identify priorities for intensifying the struggle. Her delegation welcomed the activities of the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system that were assisting UNDCP and was confident that their combined efforts and the strengthening of international cooperation would make it possible to achieve the objectives of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

66. Ms. KHAPARDE (India) said that India had become a transit route for the shipment of drugs and was therefore deeply concerned about the growing menace of drug abuse and its related problems, such as the rapid spread of AIDS and narco terrorism.

(Ms. Khaparde, India)

67. India was a traditional producer of licit opium under strictly controlled conditions which left no scope for any significant leakage of opium for other than licensed purposes. Indeed, the Indian system had been adopted as a model by the International Narcotics Control Board and had been used to formulate article 23 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. No significant illicit cultivation of opium poppy in India had come to the notice of the Government.

68. During the world-wide shortage of opiate raw material in the 1970s, India had increased its production of opium at the express request of the international community. Subsequently, with the decline in demand, the number of cultivators and the area under poppy cultivation had been progressively reduced. The export price of opium had also been cut to less than half the price current in the 1970s.

69. India now faced the threat from the influx of heroin through its north-western and north-eastern borders, most of which was destined for Europe and the United States of America. The stringent measures taken against drug traffickers, including intensifying controls at land borders and international airports, had resulted in large-scale seizures of illicit drugs. Drug enforcement authorities had also moved against the crude processing laboratories that converted opium into heroin and had broken up many drug syndicates. As a result of the enforcement measures and severe penalties exacted by India, other routes were currently being used by drug traffickers to reach Western markets.

70. India had been cooperating closely with the Governments of the United States and other countries not only in controlling the illicit production and smuggling of drugs but also in monitoring the illegal financial ramifications of drug-related activities. Indeed, her country was keen to work with foreign Governments in all aspects of drug-related offences. It was also in favour of strict domestic and international laws to curb the spread of the drug menace. However, easy access to precursors as well as the increase in money laundering had been big obstacles to effective international cooperation.

71. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme had established a three-pronged strategy for conducting research on the impact of illegal drugs on national economies, promoting technical assistance in support of World Bank lending activities, and preparing development strategies and plans which took into consideration the drug dimension. The United Nations agencies had also been working closely with the countries of South Asia, including India, which stood to benefit from the demand reduction component of the Programme, part of the global strategy against drug abuse.

72. The drug menace was far from being totally controlled, since every new method devised to counteract a particular drug was very often rendered ineffective by the replacement of the drug or its method of manufacture

(Ms. Khaparde, India)

through the introduction of a new precursor. Like so many new social problems of the 1990s, drug abuse required global action, which depended on the collective will of the international community.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.